IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original) An ink composition comprising a colorant, a humectant, a glycol monoether, a 1,2-alkanediol, and water,

wherein the weight ratio of the glycol monoether to the 1,2-alkanediol is in the range of 1:5 to 5:1.

Claim 2 (original) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the glycol monoether to the 1,2-alkanediol is in the range of 1:2 to 2:1.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the glycol monoether is glycol monobutyl ether.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the 1,2-alkanediol has 6 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the glycol monoether is glycol monobutyl ether, the 1,2-alkanediol is 1,2-hexanediol, and the content of the 1,2-hexanediol is less than 2.5% by weight based on the total amount of the ink composition.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a water-soluble dye.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a pigment and which further comprises a dispersant for dispersing the pigment.

Claim 8 (original) The ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the dispersant is a block polymer resin having an acid value of 70 to 200.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, which further comprises a nonionic surfactant.

Claim 10 (original) The ink composition according to claim 9, wherein the nonionic surfactant is an acetylene glycol surfactant.

Claim 11 (previously presented) An ink jet recording method comprising the steps of: ejecting droplets of an ink composition; and depositing the droplets onto a recording medium to perform printing, wherein the ink composition is one according to claim 1.

Claim 12 (original) A record produced by the recording method according to claim 11.

Claim 13 (original) An ink composition comprising a pigment, a dispersant for dispersing the pigment, a 1,2-alkanediol, and water as a main solvent,

wherein the content of the 1,2-alkanediol is 0.5 to 10% by weight based on the total amount of the ink composition.

Claim 14 (original) An ink composition comprising a pigment, a dispersant for dispersing the pigment, a 1,2-alkanediol, and water as a main solvent,

wherein the dispersant is a block polymer resin having an acid value of 70 to 200.

Claim 15 (original) The ink composition according to claim 14, which contains the 1,2-alkanediol in an amount of 0.5 to 10% by weight based on the ink composition.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, wherein the 1,2-alkanediol is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-butanediol, 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-heptanediol, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 3 to 10% by weight of 1,2-butanediol.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 3 to 10% by weight of 1,2-pentanediol.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 1 to 6% by weight of 1,2-hexanediol.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 0.5 to 3% by weight of 1,2-heptanediol.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 16, wherein the block polymer resin as the dispersant has an acid value of 100 to 200.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 16, wherein the dispersant is a block copolymer represented by AB, ABA, or ABC in which:

A is a hydrophilic block;

B is a hydrophobic block and contains at least 30% by weight, based on the weight of the B, of a non-acryl monomer selected from the group consisting of

(1) CH_2=CH-R

wherein R represents a C_6 - C_{20} substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl group,

(2) CH_2=CH-OR^1

wherein R^1 represents a C_3-C_{20} substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl group,

wherein R^1 is as defined in (2), and

(4) CH_2=CH-NR^2R^3

wherein R^2 and R^3 are each independently selected from the group containing of H

and C_3-C_{20} substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl group, provided that R^2 and R^3 do not simultaneously represent H; and

C may be any desired block.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which further comprises a nonionic surfactant.

Claim 24 (original) The ink composition according to claim 23, wherein the nonionic surfactant is an acetylene glycol surfactant.

B1 Cont

Claim 25 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 23, wherein the nonionic surfactant is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 5% by weight based on the total amount of the ink composition.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which further comprises a penetrating agent.

Claim 27 (original) The ink composition according to claim 26, wherein the penetrating agent is a glycol monoether.

Claim 28 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 13, which further comprises 2-pyrrolidone.

Claims 29-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (currently amended) An ink jet recording method comprising the steps of: ejecting droplets of an ink composition; and depositing the droplets onto a recording medium to perform printing, the ink composition being one according to ~~calim~~ claim 13.